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LABOUR ORGANISER

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THE LABOUR ORGANISER

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EDITOR: A. L. WILLIAMS

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OCTOBER, 1953

PRICE FIVEPENCE

Autumn or Spring?

THE possibility of a General Election this year grows less, but should not be entirely excluded. There have been winter General Elections: the General Elections of 1922 and 1935 took place in November, and those of 1918 and 1923 in December. Nobody outside can know with any certainty the weight of the various factors operating within the Tory Party which will decide the General Election date. One thing is certain, and that is that with its present majority, the Government will seek a renewal of its mandate at the earliest, and most favourable, opportunity. And when winter comes spring is not far behind.

We hardly dare repeat that 'elections are won in 'between elections', because this is one of the statements heard most often at Labour Party meetings. Yet so few Constituency Labour Parties do prepare, and when the election does come so many always appear to be taken by surprise. Each Constituency Labour Party, but more especially those in marginal areas, should appoint a small, but powerful, committee to examine the problems of the constituency and to prepare such plans as are needed to ensure a successful campaign.

Apart from such obvious matters as the agent to take charge at the election and the availability and training of other election workers, there are such problems as the postal vote, which it is almost impossible to tackle during the election itself. There should be a canvass of members and known supporters for the purpose of seeing that those who are qualified have their names placed on the Absent Voters' list. Arrangements should be made now so that the electors' lists, when they are published next January, are checked at polling district level: during an election all one can do is hope to placate irate Labour supporters who belatedly discover that they haven't a vote, and even this is not always possible. If additional polling stations are needed, a case should be prepared, suitable premises found, and application made in the usual way: there is no real satisfaction after an election in saying 'we should have won if only we had had another polling station at so and so'.

These are only some of the problems which, if faced now, will make all the difference to the result of the General Election whenever it comes.

QUAIR'S PAGE

BY the time you read this—that is, assuming there is somebody who does read it—the Fifty-Second Annual Conference of the Labour Party will be either in progress or over. Writing three weeks before it opens I make bold to forecast that in more than one newspaper I shall read reports that the movement is rent from top to bottom, for such reports have appeared nearly every time the Party has held a conference.

The growing-up of the Party, its development into a mighty political engine, its attainment of governmental power, have over the years been represented in a profound change in the character of the conference. In its earlier days it was largely a platform for the enunciation in burning phrase of our socialist faith; it has nowadays become a huge workshop for relating that faith to contemporary social needs and possibilities. There was a stage in our history when we could nationalise all the means of production, distribution and exchange in a single vigorous resolution. Now we have to tackle the job practically, and are finding it is far from being a simple task.

A PART from the serious business of the conference, this gathering of the Party's forces from the four corners of the land provides the opportunity once a year for the refreshment of association with old colleagues and friends separated ordinarily by hundreds of miles. Friendships made and strengthened within the movement have a peculiar richness, enough to withstand occasional acute differences of opinion on matters of policy, and in hotel lounges, bars, and on the sea-front experiences and yarns are swapped, and the folk-lore of the movement (alas, so little of it ever printed) grows and broadens.

The practice of some constituency parties of sending a new delegate every year is of doubtful wisdom, especially when the party has tabled a resolution or amendment to which it attaches importance.

The withers of my tender heart have oft-times wrung at the plight of such a young delegate. Deeply conscious of his

LABOUR KGOTLA

obligation to get that resolution through even in the face of the opposition of the united National Executive Committee, he finds himself summoned to a 'group committee' in Room D, at 2.30 on Saturday afternoon. There he meets thirty strangers from parties, federations, trade unions and whatnot, which have all put down resolutions on the same subject determined-looking fellows and women with files, folders, document cases and dorothea bags. Discussion, long, fierce, confusing, rages around the luckless young man.

His ewe lamb, his sacred charge, the inspired declaration of his party, is buried without trace within an omnibus composite resolution. How it all happened he does not know, and no matter how avuncular and persuasive the member of the Conference Arrangements Committee who chairs this particular 'group committee' may have been, our tyro has a feeling that in some way he cannot understand he has been outsmarted.

His only resort is to seek out and receive the never-failing comfort of his Regional Organiser, whose main function at conference appears to be to mollify indignant delegates.

THIS great annual palaver of the Labour Party is an event to which hundreds of delegates look forward eagerly and many thousands follow closely from inadequate, sometimes distorted, press reports. The Conference is the central clearing-house of the Party. The machine often appears cumbersome, and it may creak and groan at times as it does its work. Nevertheless, it does do the work for which it came into being; card votes and all, it registers by a rough-and-ready but genuine democracy the mind and present purpose of the Movement.

From time to time bright ideas are put forward to streamline the Conference and make it more 'efficient'. In fact, the machine has worn well, and the Party will be well-advised to think long and move cautiously in making any radical change in its structure.

Redistribution Again

HERTS. AND ESSEX PLAN

THE House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act, 1949, introduced the principle of permanent redistribution of parliamentary boundaries. It established Boundary Commissions for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and laid down the rules under which they would operate.

The Commissions were empowered to make recommendations from time to time, and also to make a general review, this latter not less than three, or more than seven years, from the date of the passing of the Representation of the People Act, 1948, in the case of the first report.

It has now been announced that the Commissions for England, Wales and Scotland have started upon their general review, and the publication of provisional recommendations will

THE difficulties and complexities connected with the redistribution of Parliamentary seats are many and great and any changes adumbrated necessitate careful examination and calculation.

Ever since the 'raw deal' we formerly received, which took from us six safe seats—a very serious loss in this intensely marginal region—we have kept a keen eye on development and we have tackled the matter in the following way in Essex where we are seeking to get two more seats and in Herts., where we seek to get one more:

- (1) A meeting of representatives of the parties concerned was called under the auspices of the Regional Council and all aspects of the matter were considered. Arrangements were made to collect facts and figures, to prepare maps, to consider fully Labour or Tory bias in particular areas, to pay due regard to the rules of distribution, and to deal with any other relevant matter.
- (2) A further meeting was held to consider the information collected and to draft proposals acceptable to all concerned or at least to a majority of

start to appear in the local press shortly.

The recommendations already made have been confined to slight adjustments of parliamentary to local government boundaries. It is unlikely that in their general review the Commissions will wish to cause another 'general post' so shortly after the 1948 redistribution, but it is inevitable that they will propose some changes.

A close watch should be kept on the local press for the possible appearance of provisional recommendations. Any such notices should be reported at once to the National Agent and the Regional Organiser.

Wilfred Young, Secretary of the Eastern Regional Council, which covers an area in which New Towns have been established and other extensive housing developments undertaken, details the steps taken to meet the situation in Essex and Hertfordshire.

them. Of course, in between, consultations with one or more Constituency Labour Parties were necessary to clear up important points and to get agreement thereon.

- (3) The draft proposals were subsequently submitted in detail to the Constituency Labour Parties and having secured their approval arrangements were made for the proposals to be presented to the Secretary of the Boundary Commission.
- (4) In the discussions which took place we consulted Labour Members of Parliament and Prospective Parliamentary Candidates and we received splendid help from Arthur Lewis, M.P., Geoffrey Bing, M.P., and John Parker, M.P. We also received valuable help from the Labour Party agents whose wholehearted co-operation in this matter is essential.
- (5) Finally we have advised all the C.L.P.s concerned to look out for the Boundary Commission's recommendations in the newspapers and we have also told them their rights and duties in respect thereto.

PLAN YOUR PRESS PUBLICITY

JACK CAMPBELL

urges the planned use of the publicity opportunities provided by the 'local rag'

EXPERIENCE over the past number of years has shown that nothing is ever done efficiently unless it is planned. Press publicity, like everything else, depends upon planning. How many times have we heard the story that the local Press is Tory controlled because the Conservative Party receive more space than the Labour Party? We hear the cry every day, and yet the fault is that of the local Labour Party.

How to get Press publicity? The main thing is never be afraid of writing to your local 'rag'. The editor wants news and views and he doesn't care whether from the Labour Party or any other party.

Send it in

Just write down what you want to say, as simply, as briefly, and as clearly as possible—never use unnecessarily big words or 'Civil Service language'—and send it in. It is desirable that you deal with some local issue or refer to something in the previous issue of the paper. If you see something in the paper which is not based on fact, or which is a gross misstatement, don't wait to see who else is writing, but write yourself, immediately. The more letters an editor receives the better he likes it.

In most constituencies there is at least one local newspaper, usually with a large circulation. Almost every family buys a copy, and probably reads it more thoroughly than any other publication.

Letters-to-the-Editor columns are the most widely read part of the paper, and are quite often the most popular feature. The editor aims to keep such columns as lively and controversial as possible, and welcomes contributions.

On many occasions something raised in a letter, such as criticism of a speech made by the local M.P. or councillor, leads to a constituency-wide campaign, and support from non-party electors. If

any reader questions this statement he is welcome to copies of the *Southern Standard*, *Southend Times*, *Canvey News*, *Billerica Times*, and the many other local papers covering the Billericay constituency. From these papers he will get an idea of how much publicity the Labour Party has received in the past year.

Here is an example of how Party literature can be read by the bulk of the electorate:

'To The Editor,
Sir,

"Operation Speed Up?"

The claim made by Miss Florence Horsbrugh, Minister of Education—as reported in the Recorder—that her "Operation Speed Up" was responsible for the building of more schools in 1952 than 1951 should be exposed for what it is—a cheap bit of Conservative Propaganda.

What are the facts which Miss Horsbrugh conveniently overlooked? etc., etc., etc. . . .

The letter then went on to quote the facts from the Head Office leaflet *Scandal of the Schools*. It may amaze you, but the letter was published in full and started quite a bit of controversy which went in favour of the Labour Party.

Many members who would like to write have difficulty in expressing themselves on paper. This difficulty can be overcome. The important thing is to get something written down, however badly you may think it is expressed.

Write your points down in any order just as they occur to you. You can then get to work to improve upon your letter or report, and re-arrange your material into the best possible order. Or better still, you can always get the help of a more experienced Party member—the Constituency Agent or Press Officer.

Your final copy

Write your final copy in clear handwriting (or if possible type it), with plenty of space between the lines, and write on one side of the paper only.

All meetings, social, whist drives, etc., however small, should be reported. When

an event is held weekly, such as a whist drive, the report should begin 'The weekly Whist Drive of the . . . Labour Party'. This gives the Party a free method of advertising as it lets the readers know that the event is a weekly one. There is the possibility, of course, that the editor may re-word the report, but on the other hand it may go in as received.

About a fortnight before any public meeting or social event, a letter should be sent to the editor inviting him to send a reporter and photographer along. Most local editors are pleased to do so.

Our Party slips up very badly in effective Press work. In the Conservative Party members are asked to write on specific subjects, and there is a check to see that the material is sent to the editors. Members who are unable to write articles—and there is quite a number—are given guidance from the constituency office. When controversies arise the Tories have ample people to keep the campaign going,

even if it means that all the material is issued from the local Tory headquarters.

We must play the Tories at their own game. Press Officers should be available to give assistance and advice to members wishing to write on any subject. The value of such publicity cannot be calculated.

Become your friend

You should not be put off if your material is not used at first, and under no circumstances should you write hostile letters to an editor: he won't print them. If you give accurate news and honest opinions the editor will become your friend, and will expect 'copy' from you at regular intervals.

Why not 'have a go' and try your hand? If you have still any doubts about your capability why not as a start write to the *Labour Organiser* giving your criticism of this article?

TO THE EDITOR

AGENT'S OFFICE

I NOTE in the article by L. G. Sims in the September issue that the problem faced by the Returning Officers was one of the reasons that the last date for the receipt of applications for a postal vote in Parliamentary elections has been put forward two days.

If it is right to do something to assist the Returning Officer, then in my view it is also right to do something to assist the agent.

I state my case as follows. I am the agent for Ince, a county constituency. The Ince constituency goes round Wigan County Borough on the East, South and West. The natural centre for my constituency is WIGAN.

Section 57 of R.P.A., 1949, says . . . the office of the Agent shall . . . be within the constituency, or . . . within any COUNTY OF A CITY OR TOWN ADJOINING.

My office is in Wigan, being as stated above, the natural place to have it. I am within 90 yards of my own boundary of Ince. Yet I cannot use my office as my official office, due to the stupid and outdated wording of the Act.

Wigan is not a COUNTY OF A CITY. Indeed, there is no place qualified as such in Lancashire. Ronnie Williams, M.P., has been to considerable trouble to check this up for me, and this wording (County of a City or Town) is something that is simply

historical and has no practical meaning to-day. It has been carried forward with successive Acts, why I do not know. Its origin goes back to 1792 (I think) and it is high time it was struck out.

A simple amendment to delete the words 'County of a' in lines 4 and 6 of section 57 (2) is all that is needed.

I shall use my office in any case, but must employ subterfuge by naming some other place as my 'office' for the purposes of the Act. Why should we have to employ subterfuge?

If it is not possible to alter this by Order, then may I suggest that the problem be kept in mind against the time when a new Act is prepared; but that may be years hence.

Just check the map of Lancashire and see where the natural centres are for:

Ince, Westhoughton, Ormskirk, Newton, Heywood and Royton, and a few others.

No doubt other people elsewhere will be in similar positions.

I must say that the position has been checked by me with the County Council and Ronnie Williams, M.P. The answer is that we can do nothing about it until the Act itself is slightly amended. I have consulted the Tory agent for Ince and there is common agreement on this question.

R. BELBEN,

Secretary-Agent, Ince C.L.P.

Before joining the National Agent's Department as National Youth Officer, Keir Peay was agent for a group of constituencies in Sussex. He examines A. Morlidge's suggestions for improving the status of collectors, made in our September issue:

DEALING WITH COLLECTORS

by KEN PEAY

CONGRATULATIONS are due to Mr. A. Morlidge for his article on 'How to get those Collectors', which appeared last month. Obviously his subject has been given much thought. He has put forward a number of useful suggestions, but several points require further consideration.

It is quite clear that there can be no argument as to the importance of collectors. The time and effort in enrolling thousands of Party members is wasted because insufficient attention is given to building up efficient collecting systems.

While the Party Constitution does not concern itself with the detailed responsibilities of collectors, every good organiser appreciates their importance.

The appointment of a constituency membership and literature officer is not sufficient. Although Agents sometimes make themselves responsible for membership, every Local Labour Party or Ward Association should have a separate membership officer. To make one voluntary official responsible, in say an average constituency of 2,500 members, for membership subscriptions, records, literature and the editing of a bulletin is expecting far too much.

While it may be desirable for a membership secretary to be elected at an annual general meeting, careful thought should be given in advance to ensure that a suitable candidate is available.

Collectors can be found providing they are asked to perform reasonable duties. Experience shows that at least one newly recruited member in ten is prepared to be in some way active. Part of the secret of success is to make a personal doorstep approach for collectors when members are newly recruited. To delay for twelve months can often be fatal. By the end of that period a member has become accustomed to inactivity, accepting it as a matter of course.

To suggest to the right type of new

member that he makes a monthly or quarterly call on a dozen to twenty new members will often meet with a favourable response. For lasting success it is usually necessary to ensure that the number of members on each collecting book is kept to 25 or less, and that they reside within a few minutes' walking distance of the collector's home.

In some scattered rural areas local parties are often satisfied if their collectors each cope with a dozen members. To deal with the suggested minimum of 50 might entail covering dozens of square miles on each collection.

Mr. Morlidge recommends that collectors covering 50 members should automatically be granted powers to attend General Committee meetings as delegates. As this is contrary to the Party rules drastic amendments would have to be made before it could be implemented.

It is doubtful whether this would be a means of gaining many new collectors, and would be an undemocratic procedure. A member who could not gain the support of his ward association to act as a delegate could obtain the same powers by becoming a collector.

The system would be open to abuse by a minority, and in all probability would not be used by the majority of collectors. Often collectors are persons who do not attend ward meetings, leave alone Party committee meetings.

When Keir Hardie said 'look to the register', it is probable that he was referring to the register of electors. So far as the Party register of members is concerned, it is suggested that this be dispensed with in favour of a card index. This is far more practical owing to the frequency with which changes in membership take place.

While it is highly desirable to keep contact with rank and file members, and grant them as many facilities as possible, it is doubtful whether many would take advantage of an explanatory booklet of local government. However, it is an excellent plan to supply new members with

document describing the Labour Party. Head Office publishes a four-page leaflet *About the Labour Party*, price £2 5s. per thousand copies, which fulfils this purpose.

Another controversial recommendation is that subscriptions should be raised to threepence per week. This would mean an increase of over 100 per cent and would be likely to cost the Party many members. In any case it would be impossible to grant National Labour Club facilities in return. The distinction between local Labour Parties and Labour Clubs should be understood clearly. Labour Clubs are usually affiliated to the Working Men's Club and Institute Limited. This organisation has a national membership scheme which provides facilities for club members, on payment of one shilling a year, to use most of the other Labour Clubs in Britain.

While, some, but by no means all, members might appreciate a subscriptions holiday at Christmas, the New Year and at mid-summer, it is disturbing to think of the accounting difficulties which would be involved. Members and collectors alike would be confused, and local Parties would lose revenue. Many members pay quarterly and would not appreciate the concession at the time they were intended to

benefit. Others would actually resent any such alteration to a contract they had entered into voluntarily.

The granting of honorary membership after retirement from work is another matter open to controversy. All retired old age pensioners should, however, be made aware of the rule which allows them to retain the full privileges of Labour Party membership on payment of an annual subscription of one shilling.

While it is no longer illegal to issue Party members or supporters with ribbons during an election, this would have to be done on a local basis. Labour Party colours vary considerably from area to area. Some use red, others yellow, some a combination of the two, and others quite different colours. In any case, the cost would have to be included in the agent's return of expenses and it is doubtful if he would consider the expenditure to be worthwhile.

In conclusion, stress should be laid on one of the most important points made by Mr. Morledge. He advocates that 'we should be proud to be helping to build Socialism and not to be afraid to say so'. If we approach the tasks of enrolling new members and appointing collectors in this spirit we shall not fail.

SUPPOSE YOU WERE SIR WINSTON

What would you do? Well, whatever your decision, you could count on the Facts and Figures being presented to you in ship-shape order.

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The Service is neither costly nor clumsy. Its selection and presentation of news items are absolutely unbiased. Designed for rapid reference, it is as often used for leisured reading.

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WHY pick on *me* to hazard a few thoughts on the art of canvassing? It is easy to knock on doors and say *summat*, but a certain philosophical temperament must be acquired to enjoy canvassing. It is a task which keeps you on your toes and demands continuous mental alertness, because you have to deal with so many diverse elements in human nature in the course of every sixty minutes.

A wag once said, 'It isn't the chocolates in the box the girl likes so much as the way it is wrapped up.' It's the pretty picture on the coloured box tied up with dainty blue bow and ribbons which attracts the female of the species.



The first essential is to have faith in the cause and a real enthusiasm for your job. Make up your mind at the outset to have confidence in the simple goodness and intelligence of ordinary folk. If you decide in advance to deserve a kindly response from all you meet, you are much more likely to get it. Make folk feel important, as they really are. Remind them of the highly important part they should take as individuals in controlling the nation's destiny.

Be cheerful. Be natural. Speak gently and quietly in conversational tones. Dress simply and neatly. Focus their entire attention on your message and not on any oddities of your appearance or speech.

At once disarm any suspicion or doubt as to the purpose of your visit. The poor woman may think you have come to take back the new television or to demand the arrears! I start my talk by saying, 'I come from the national Labour Party headquarters to ask for your personal interest and help.' Then I at once show them their names in the printed electoral register.

Lose no time in discovering some ground of common agreement. Find something deserving of honest praise; their happy healthy children, a pretty flower border, a well-planned vegetable plot, a contented dog or cat or budgerigar, a tidy neat kitchen, clean shining pots and pans, a busy washing-day, etc. At this

HOW TO the Can

Mr. Sydney Lamb is a member that has been working in it. He has established his reputation hundreds of new members explains the secret of his success learn the important art of canvassing.

stage say, 'May I assume that your sympathies are with the Labour Movement?' The reply will at once indicate whether you are addressing a Labour enthusiast, or a lifeless supporter, or a disgruntled waverer, or an out and out political opponent. You may already have enough information to be able to mark your canvass card 'For' or 'Against' or 'Doubtful'.

If the reply is a firm negative resist the temptation to argue. Leave that to the platform orators. Keep smiling and unruffled. Much as we might relish a scrap on the doorstep a canvasser cannot spare the time or the nervous energy for political squabbling.

To an obvious opponent I recede from the doorstep with some such message as this: 'Thank Heaven for the liberty to give of our individual best to build a better Britain along our differing roads. Cheerio.'



If the voter is a waverer, devoid of sturdy loyalties, without political foundations, and is belching wild criticisms because Labour has not solved all the problems of all the world, I generally say, 'Surely you judge Christianity by its age-long imperishable principles, and certainly not by the limitations of a few unworthy individual achievements. You and I haven't reached perfection yet, you know. Why not come actively into our movement? Take part in our discussions. Hit us as hard and as often as you like. Take a hand in helping to shape our local and national policy and programme. And

LEARN ing Art

our Party team of canvassers
nstituencies since last April.
ar canvasser and has enrolled
ed dozens of collectors. He
ne hope that others also will
r Socialism.

then loyally accept and support majority
decisions.'

Canvassers will be much heartened by
the goodwill for the Labour Party which
he discovers, especially in the housing
estates. The volume of goodwill varies,
of course, with the type of road you are
canvassing. In some detached villas after
the door is closed on you there is a
temptation to use a strong aromatic spray
to neutralise the rudery concerning
Labour and all its works. Canvassers
must learn to suffer fools gladly or they
would go crackers.

So very often I find myself at once in
a favourable atmosphere, and then my
approach is something like this. 'No one
knows better than you the amount of
work and money it takes to run your
home, and you will understand the urgent
need of our local Labour Party for more,
many more active workers and much
more money, to carry out an adequate
educational campaign to win this very
large constituency for Labour.' I try to
win a smile by saying, 'If you are any-
thing like us you are rich in everything
except money, and those who have nothing
but money are damned poor, 'Eaven
'elp 'em.'

'As a friend of the Labour Party I want
you to make some sacrifice to help our
movement. You may be unable to attend
our meetings regularly, but you can at
least pay the small membership subscrip-
tion of 6d. a month. I am sure you can
afford that. Our collector will hand you

your membership subscription card and
will call on you regularly each month,
soon after pay day. I want you to promise
me that 6d. will be ready for her each
month when she calls.

'In future you will be notified of the
date and place of all meetings in the hope
that you or your husband can sometimes
attend. Make a special effort to attend
the women's group meeting in the after-
noon. A neighbour will call and go with
you to the meeting so that you will not
feel strange. You will soon find nice
friends among the members. Your
attendance and interest would add
strength to our meetings and I am certain
you in turn would get happiness and
instruction from your association with us.'

The simple fact that in the past four
months I have secured an average each
day of 32 new membership enrolments
duly signed up is some evidence that my
method of approach has met with some
success.

Canvassers in the course of their job
should keep a careful look-out for Labour
enthusiasts, both men and women, who
might be willing to do active work within
the Party. Is there any better way of
increasing a person's interest in our
Movement than to entrust them with
some responsible task which brings them
within the Movement itself? There are
plenty of good-natured public-spirited
people available, but they must be
searched for, given a suitable job to do
and trusted to do it.

If you ask a busy housewife to act as
a voluntary collector, give her only about
a dozen houses to look after nearest to her
home, and tell her she is expected to
collect subscriptions and not to canvass.
Entrust the political education of these
fifteen to twenty new members to her.

For the first twelve months of a new
collector's service she deserves to be care-
fully instructed, encouraged and nursed.
Why, not even a perpetual clock has been
invented yet, so please don't think that
voluntary workers will give long service
without being regularly reconditioned and
refitted.

Every voluntary collector should be
invited to nominate an assistant or emer-
gency collector to carry on in times of
sickness or removal.

Voluntary collectors should be invited
to some social function at least once a
quarter where they should be welcomed
(Continued overleaf)

by the Mayor, say, and at later functions by the chairman of the party, or the president of the Women's Section. Each voluntary worker should be made to feel important and to be told officially that they fill a very important office in the Party organisation.

When you discover and train and value a new voluntary worker, you only know their beginnings. How do you know that one day they may finish up by being a member of the Cabinet, or the first woman Foreign Secretary? Make sure of the beginnings: the ends will take care of themselves.

A canvasser has three important tasks. First, to find out information for the local Labour Party, which of the electors in any street are 'For' or 'Against'. Second, to persuade Labour voters to become members of the Labour Party. Third, to persuade Labour supporters to be active workers.

It has already been stated that the actual hours available for effective canvassing each day are very few. I have personally been canvassing for the national Labour Party since April last because I like canvassing, and for a much more important reason still, because I like the principles and purposes of the Labour Party.

When I go into another constituency, am I not wasting my time in calling on known recognised opponents and in calling on existing members already paying to the Labour Party? Surely I should concentrate my limited ration of time and talk on doubtful voters and Labour supporters who are not already members.



I welcome help from able-bodied pensioners in distributing literature, addressing envelopes, writing up canvass cards, etc., but I do not invite old-age pensioners to join unless they offer to pay their nominal subscription of one shilling per annum.

My own personal opinion is that housewives are more unrestrained and more at ease if you call to see them at their back

doors. (Indeed, many front doors are never used and refuse to open.)

The most effective time for canvassing is in the evening from about 6.30 to dusk, after the husband is home and has had his evening meal. Even then he may be out at the club or cinema. During the day many wives are out shopping or in outside employment. (It is a national disaster that so many thousands of young mothers with tiny infant children are compelled to go out to work to supplement the family income.)

Many housewives are naturally reluctant to sign any papers until they first consult their husband on his return in the evening. It is inevitable that the new membership enrolments during the day must be small compared with evening canvassing when those V.I.P.s, the husbands, are at home to give their decision.

One important factor in canvassing is stickability. Like the postage stamp, stick on till the end of the journey.

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which 1,114 houses were visited and the register marked accordingly; 73 new members enrolled; 24 postal vote applications dealt with and 354 *People's Pictorials* sold.

These figures are the more significant because the work was done in the weaker parts of the constituency in which a good deal of strengthening is required in readiness for the next General Election.

It is trite to say that it avails little to make new members unless collecting machinery equal to the continual need is established, but it is nevertheless a vital fact which should be borne in mind always, for it is folly to spend time and money in making new members only to let them slip away because the means of collecting contributions are inadequate. Well, this side of the matter was attended to thoroughly and seven collectors were secured.

The Party will gain in many ways from this accretion of strength and we thank NALSO warmly for the effective help which they gave. Well done!

Eastern

W. T. YOUNG



MORTONS FOR STATIONERY

Write for samples and new List of ENVELOPES, DUPLICATING PAPERS, STENCILS, INKS, TYPEWRITER RIBBONS and CARBONS etc. as supplied to scores of Labour Party and Trade Union Offices
Mortons, 37 Wheatshaf Hall, Wheatshaf Lane, London, S.W.8

HELP TO SPREAD THE LIGHT

by FLORENCE E. CARUTH

A Literature Secretary can be a very useful Party Officer. It is surprising that so many constituency and local parties fail to appoint one. Perhaps more might be encouraged to do so if the possibility were mentioned in the Model Rules.

However recommendations have come from Head Office from time to time that a Literature Secretary be appointed. Some parties at least have responded.

The ideal Literature Secretary is someone who is fond of reading and who sees the great opening which exists for selling our Party publications both to members and to the general public. This work can very well become as much of a full-time occupation as a voluntary worker can let it be.

The Publications Department has an annoying, but understandable, habit of asking for money to be sent with orders. It would be a pleasant thing if the local party could launch a new Literature Secretary with £5 or so to lay out on stock.

It is an advantage for the Literature Secretary to have a cupboard, where papers can be kept clean and tidy. In addition there should be some effective place for display. Some parties have excellent premises with a clean shop window, beautifully set out with pamphlets and books. Almost any party can at least manage a trestle table.

It is useful within the party to collect a good number of regular customers, who will undertake to buy a copy of each new pamphlet as it comes out. The only difficulty then is delivering the goods. This is easiest in a single borough party, particularly in one with plenty of central activities. In some boroughs and certainly in all county constituencies the Literature Secretary will need to work either through ward or local party Literature Secretaries, or directly through their general secretaries. Very persistent effort is needed to circulate a new publication.

When any special propaganda effort is on foot the co-operation of the Literature Secretary should be sought. There should

FLORENCE CARUTH is Women's Organiser in the South-West, and previously was active in the Labour Party in Yorkshire occupying, among other posts, that of Literature Secretary of the Huddersfield Labour Party. Her article on the work of a Literature Secretary is the sixth of a series dealing with the duties of Party officers.

be a Literature Stall at every meeting, whether it is private or public, and not just a take-it-or-leave-it affair. It is simplest to concentrate mainly on one pamphlet at a time. It may perhaps deal with the subject of the meeting, or be topical, or be an attractive general publication, such as *People's Pictorial*.

Literature can best be sold by stewards going round with it before the meeting begins. An advertisement by the chairman or speaker generally stimulates sales. This gives the stewards a further chance at the end of the meeting.

Readers of the *Labour Organiser* drank in Quair's wise words on 'Salesmanship' last March and wait breathlessly for the secret to be revealed of selling pamphlets at the rate of ninepence a head.

Special door-to-door campaigns, too, need to be well supplied with literature. Here many will advocate leaflets for free distribution. But there are those, on the other hand, who believe that a pamphlet which is bought and paid for is more likely to be read than one given away.

Some parties have tried open-air stalls and selling literature in the streets. Much more along these lines might well be achieved.

One great problem is disposal of old stocks. Many of our publications are topical and soon out of date and there are bound to be some supplies left over.

It is very well worth while for someone in the party to keep a copy of every publication and the Literature Secretary might well do this. It is interesting to look, for instance, at the series of which *Challenge to Britain* is the latest. Recent policy

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UNIONS GENERATE POWER

APPROPRIATELY, it was whilst travelling in the 'Lady of Man' boat from Liverpool to Douglas that I had the first opportunity of reading the article *Forge closer link with Trade Union Branches* written by Sara Barker in the September issue of the *Labour Organiser* and, the sea being calm, I had time to reflect on the contribution which the trade unions had made, not only to the Party nationally, but more particularly to the various Labour Party organisations with which I had been associated during more than 30 years of service in the Party.

Prior to becoming a full-time agent my employment in the railway service and my then belief in 'One Union for all Railway men' had led me into dual membership of the R.C.A. (now T.S.S.A.) and of the N.U.R., and in those early years I saw how great was the part played by the unions in the development of the Party especially in the rural areas. Nowadays, nearly all sections of the community can be approached with some confidence for membership of, and service in, the Party, but in the early days our inevitable approach in attempting to build a new party in the countryside was to those who were members of local branches of trade unions, very often the railway unions of which I was a member.

Almost without exception from their ranks was found the personnel on which our local Labour Parties were constructed. Later in both Northamptonshire and Staffordshire, as full-time agent I reaped a rich reward of service and support from the industrial movement.

It was, however, in Leeds that I was privileged to have my closest contacts

with the trade union movement for there, of necessity, my time was devoted to winning their support. Appointed in 1932, I found the Party in debt and with an expenditure which annually was considerably in excess of its income, an experience by no means unique to newly-appointed secretaries and agents.

An examination of the situation revealed that economies were impracticable and new sources of income were therefore essential and of those new sources it was clear that, for a variety of reasons, new and increased affiliations

by Reg. C. Wallis

from the trade unions were the most promising.

First, it was clear that less than half of the trade union branches were affiliated. Second, once secured the affiliation was likely to be permanent thus increasing the annual income of the party. Third, new affiliations meant an increase in the number of potential workers for the party. Foremost, therefore, in the plan worked out was a campaign amongst the trade union branches.

Circulars regarding the campaign, setting out the arguments for trade union affiliation to the Labour Party, were sent to all district committees and branches and including a request that I might personally visit all branches concerned. At the same time visits were paid to all full-time trade union officers to seek their co-operation. Though this was twenty years ago, I think memory serves me right when I say that in every case ready co-operation was forthcoming from the officials of all the unions.

The result was not only a personal visit to a number of district committees, but also to scores of trade union branches, and by the end of two years trade union affiliation in Leeds was virtually doubled.

The lesson is, I am sure, that personal contact alone can win the degree of support we need. Personal contact must be aided by persistence. Where no reply was received branch officers were visited in an endeavour to fix dates. In those cases where all else failed visits were paid to branches without an invitation, and it is interesting to record that my temerity and persistency in this matter only once

resulted in my forcible ejection from the meeting and even in that case affiliation came a few months later.

In most constituencies there are un-affiliated trade union branches, and agents and secretaries would, I think, by persistent personal contact be able to secure their support and co-operation.

When I became Regional Organiser for the North-West, I little thought that my activities in Leeds might need to be duplicated. In practice that proved to be the case. In 1936 no regional machinery of the Labour Party existed in the North-West and the Organiser was often without an effective instrument for constructive work. So a regional council was planned and finally launched in 1938. At its inaugural conference trade union affiliation barely exceeded 200,000 but since then by the same persistence and personal contact trade union affiliation has been increased to well over 800,000 and represents the solid foundation on which the North-West membership will, this year, reach a target of ONE MILLION.

Still more important, this affiliation brings to the Regional Council a wealth of experience and a fund of knowledge without which its conclusions might well be out of touch with the realities of the situation and the real desires and aspirations of the great mass of industrial workers.

So, too, in the constituencies the effort should be made, and made now, to make the Party fully representative of all sections of the movement. In no part of the country have greater efforts been made to strengthen individual membership than in the North-West and we are proud of our total of 130,000, but it has always been recognised that we must bring in the larger numbers of organised trade unionists and so speak with the greater authority their adhesion brings. Constituency Labour Parties should aim at being equally representative so that their voice may have the authenticity which 100 per cent organisation can bring.

Victory requires an army. Political victory requires an army experienced, disciplined and conscious of its aims. What better field of recruitment could exist than that amongst the millions who week by week are contributing to our industrial movement. Even one un-affiliated trade union branch is a grave weakness. So, throughout the country, on to 100 per cent affiliation and victory at the next General Election.

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statements such as *Labour and the New Society* and *Labour Believes in Britain* followed *Let's Face the Future* of 1945. *The Old World and the New Society* of 1942, *Labour's Immediate Programme* of 1937 and *Labour and the New Social Order* of 1918. The difference in content shows how much was achieved by the two Governments led by Mr. Attlee and also changes in the world situation. The presentation, too, shows changes in style during these thirty-five years.

Apart from treasuring these souvenirs it is essential to get rid of out of date stocks. There might be an occasional bargain day with pamphlets going at half-price. As a last resort they can be given away either to members or in some general distribution. Copies can be left in strategic places such as railway carriages, on buses, on the tables of public libraries and the waiting-rooms of doctors and dentists.

It is certainly a sad sight to see large stacks of literature taking up valuable space in party premises, growing dustier and more antiquated year by year. There is a theory that papers breed and the offices of some agents and organisers supply evidence to support it.

Some publications on the other hand are permanently useful. A good supply of *Party Organisation* and of the *Local Government Handbooks* should always be available.

Then there are the money-raisers. A steady sale of membership badges and once a year of diaries can bring in enough profit to make up for the loss which is almost inevitable on pamphlets.

Being a Literature Secretary involves keeping accounts. With luck and good management a profit can be produced for the party funds at the end of the year. But where instead it is a loss, as it well may be, a party may rightly consider the money well spent.

Today radio and television are obviously the expanding means of political propaganda. But there will always be a place for the printed word. Our own members need works of reference, such as *Rule Books* and the *Local Government Handbooks*. We shall always need policy statements to argue about and act upon. So that there will always be a place in party organisation for a Literature Secretary.

TWO STALWARTS RETIRE

Mrs. Lilian Anderson Fenn and Miss Gertrude Francis, the two oldest Women's Organisers, are retiring this year. Mrs. Fenn was one of the two National Women's Organisers appointed in 1918 to assist parties throughout the country in the organisation of women, soon to become such an important factor in Parliamentary elections. When nine organising districts were established in 1920, she became Women's Organiser for the Northern district. In 1929, she transferred to the Midlands, and when that district was divided into two in 1943, she continued to work in the West Midlands. Miss Gertrude Francis was appointed in 1920 as the Women's Organiser for the Eastern district, where she has continued to work ever since. Before her appointment, she was full-time agent in the Woodbury division of Suffolk, and earlier had been active in the Independent Labour Party and the women's suffrage movement.

Gertrude Francis

I heard about Frankie, as we affectionately call her, long before I had the pleasure of meeting her. Her friends became my friends. I stayed with them occasionally and they used to tell me about the unique comrade who walked miles to address I.L.P. meetings and who stood dauntlessly in the vanguard of the Suffragette movement.

Frankie is a woman of many fine qualities, and outstanding among them are generosity and sympathy. So far as I have been able to judge from close quarters she has very little use for money except to give to people in need. Certainly she spends more on others than on herself.

One instance of her generosity springs to mind. She 'phoned to say she was sending flowers for us 'by bus'. When I collected them my eyes lighted on a carton which seemed almost too big to go in the bus! What a sight when we opened it up! Grandiflora, honeysuckle, china roses, floribundas and many rare blooms were there in profusion. The rooms were soon full of flowers and we enjoyed their fragrance for many days.

Well, that's Frankie's way. She never does things by halves. She gives in good measure, pressed down and running over from the inner warmth of her utterly unselfish self.

Her compassion for those who fall by the way is deep and abiding. She never condones their acts but is always ready to forgive—not only seven times, but seventy times seven if needs be.

About her work. She went along successfully in her own peculiar way in the fields of administration and organisation,

but she never claimed any great measure of efficiency in these matters. She was successful because she understood human beings and because she treated them as she would have treated herself. To her, life was not just black and white, but all the colours of the rainbow, and she dealt with it accordingly.

She left me to buy all the office furniture and equipment and I believe I did it well; but both before and after the purchases her one concern was to have an old trestle table in the office on which to 'put things'. Well, she had her trestle table and so there was peace at last!

More than anything else Frankie was a propagandist, and in this capacity she has done wonderful work for the Labour movement. She employed no dross in her argument; she dived for gold, and from her rich store of erudition and culture she found it and gave it in great measure to her listeners. There was always edification and inspiration for all who needed it.

Well, this is Frankie, and how we shall miss her in the region and the Regional Office!

W. T. YOUNG

Lilian Fenn

LILIAN FENN'S sincerity, enthusiasm, energy and example have been infectious, and throughout the West Midlands she is held in great respect and warm affection.

I knew Lilian, through my work at Head Office, before coming to Birmingham, but it was not until I was appointed Regional Organiser that I fully appreciated her real worth and sterling qualities. From the very first day Lilian's advice and help were there readily, and her comradely

fellowship and loyal aid enabled me to settle in quickly. This friendly relationship has continued over the past six years, and I have every reason to be intensely grateful that Lilian chose the West Midlands in which to continue her great work for the movement—in all she covered this important area for some 24 years.

She inaugurated the Regional Women's Rally as an annual event—we have just held the 8th and at which the constituency parties and women's sections paid her rightful tribute by a presentation arranged through the Regional Council. I know the energy she put in each year to make this great gathering an inspiring success; only Lilian could have shown the determination necessary to succeed in its first year, when such events were then alien to this region.

Her outstanding contribution has been the help always given so readily to women members who showed promise, and the

encouragement she particularly bestowed on younger members, both men and women. Her example was always there—conscientious and sincere, she had little time for stunting and sought always to build a sound base organisation. Rightly proud of the West Midlands women, she never failed to emphasise the need to also take their rightful place in the general work of the Party.

Lilian retains her passionate faith in Socialism and in the destiny of our great movement. She has always stressed the need to stand by principles and to shun easy expedients.

Countless members are the better for having known and to have worked with her. Thank you Lilian, and may you be with us for many a year to continue this warm fellowship which must remain the life-blood of our cause.

H. R. UNDERHILL

Training future Agents

FINDING the right type of person with the right kind of experience has always been one of the main problems of the Labour Party's agency service. To help towards its solution, two years ago the National Executive Committee agreed to a Trainee Agents' Scheme.

Under this scheme, constituencies employing an experienced full-time agent are asked to take a trainee for twelve months practical training. The salary paid to the trainee is £250, Head Office and the Constituency Labour Party sharing the burden equally. Appointments are made from a list of names submitted by Regional Organisers, Agents and Members of Parliament.

There were two appointments in the first year of the scheme, and the trainees were successful in securing agency appointments shortly after finishing their training. At present there are four potential agents training. The scheme is still in its experimental stage, but it can be said that it has not proved an unqualified success. Peter Moyes, now training at North Somerset, here relates his experiences and offers some criticisms of the scheme.



I AM training in the large marginal North Somerset constituency which contains mining communities, dormitory urban areas, agricultural and residential areas.

My first week was spent working with the Agent at the party's headquarters situated in the centre of the mining area at the constituency's eastern end, during which time I was 'briefed' with details of the party.

Then I was supplied with a typewriter, files and stationery and put to work at the western end in the smallest of the

three urban districts and given responsibility for this and the surrounding rural district. This area is mainly Tory in character. I remember wondering 'How shall I occupy my time?' but soon discovered the reverse problem of fitting everything into the available time!

In addition to these duties, I have others, and am in no way confined merely to this area. Often, for instance, I deputise for the Agent and organise events in other areas on his behalf.

In fact the training covers practically

every aspect of agency service. Among the many tasks I have undertaken are: agent at a county council by-election; supervising local elections; public speaking; L.O.Y. organisation; organising day schools, public speaking classes, socials and dances; design of posters and literature, etc.; drafting circulars; arranging a programme for the candidate's visit; plus a host of other tasks.

By regular contact and consultation with the agent I receive the benefit of his experience and suggestions. Occasionally we attend meetings together and I spend a day per week at the office helping with routine work.

My experience suggests that, on balance, the trainee benefits more than the constituency party although, of course, numerous benefits accrue from the trainee's efforts. The North Somerset Party has an excellent organisation with a few, long-standing 'black spots' so that any improvements are, at the best, relatively small.

It can also take time for a trainee to get used to a constituency. I had been active in all spheres of organisation in my home industrial constituency of Dewsbury before appointment, but found methods in rural North Somerset very different.

Besides the time taken in adaptation, another limitation of a trainee, from the constituency viewpoint, is the tendency to think in terms of short-term organisation capable of fruition within twelve months. But it would be unwise to over-rate this as it would be to ignore it.

Relations between the trainee and agent are of the utmost importance. I have been lucky in working with a person whose mature and somewhat conservative outlook balance my natural youthful enthusiasm and impetuosity. Between us we have formed a combination and friendship which we both value highly.

Of course the scheme is not perfect. Most people think they are worth more than they are paid and who would expect the trainee to differ in this respect? The salary of a Trainee Agent is really inadequate, however, particularly if living away from home.

In real money my training period has cost me about £30 but reckoned in terms of wages lost the figure is in the region of £150. The salary therefore is a serious limiting factor and

will clearly prevent those with family responsibilities from contemplating becoming trainees. It should be increased if the scheme is to be all-embracing.

A second drawback is the fact that appointment is governed by the ability of a party to afford a trainee, and bears no relation to its suitability for training. For the scheme to become really effective trainees must be appointed in selected constituencies, where they can receive the widest experience under the supervision of a first-class agent. I cannot see this happening until national responsibility for the trainee's salary is accepted.

A further improvement can be made by making the scheme much more widely known to attract prospective agents through the trainee scheme. And why not advertise trainee posts?

In appointing a trainee the views of the agent concerned must somehow be taken regard of, as much depends on the trainee and agent working well together. This perhaps is a small point, but difficulties are foreseeable which could be sufficient to turn a suitable applicant away from agency service.

My training will be put to the acid test shortly when I secure an agency appointment. Until then I can hardly assess all the advantages of trainee agency, but perhaps I can outline some of the more obvious and personal ones.

Firstly, it is essentially a practical method of training under practical conditions. The study course is a first-class supplement filling in the theoretical background, but in line with raising agency standards, I feel it could be expanded to cover subjects such as 'Modern advertising techniques' and perhaps even 'Psychology'.

Second, the twelve months are a valuable trial period when the suitability or otherwise of a prospective agent can be discovered.

Third, it has built up my self-confidence to the extent that I now desire to secure appointment in one of the most marginal rural constituencies.

Finally, I feel the wider adoption of this scheme as the usual method of entering the agency service will raise standards generally and reduce the practice of new entrants receiving experience at the expense of the employing constituency.

Peter Moyes

NEW IDEAS IN ELECTIONS

RECENTLY, we have been meeting the officers, candidates and parties, and saying just this: 'Wise parties would prepare in case an election comes this year.' But you cannot go to a party and say only that; you follow up with one or two points as to what, in your opinion, wise parties should do, and unless you put something new into the pool of ideas, it is a job to create much interest, for after all, our parties have been through the period of 'Pre-Election Organisation' many times before.

In most areas, our organisation is strong enough to do some experimenting. Occasionally, we can afford to let our imaginations run wild in an attempt to break away from the old stodgy routine. Maybe nothing new will result, but that is no reason for not trying, and it is surprising what can come out of what appears to be a ridiculous or fantastic suggestion.

The old idea of trying to do ten meetings in one evening in a scattered county constituency should be discarded, so should starting all meetings at 7.30 p.m. and carrying them on for the customary two hours, with very often long and boring speeches by supporting speakers.

Maybe the idea of holding Eve-of-Poll meetings to which, in the main, only our known supports come, and from which we get no press reports on Polling Day, could be seriously looked at. Perhaps it is not a bad suggestion, instead of holding Eve-of-Poll meetings, to call your workers together and plan detailed organisation for Polling Day. Anyway, it is worth looking at.

T.V. is going to play a big part. It would not be a bad idea if party agents made a list of their members who have television sets, for they could be used to great advantage. I will have something to say about this another time.

The party system in this country is so firmly established that in any constituency we can always rely upon a substantial Labour vote no matter who the Candidate is, or what kind of organisation exists. Although we must not neglect this basic Labour vote, the fact is, if we could find out in advance the names and addresses of 4-5,000 doubtful voters, we could, I believe, to great advantage concentrate between

now and the next election a good deal of our propaganda and educational work on those 4-5,000 doubtful voters, for they will be the people who will very largely determine the majority in favour of, or against, Labour candidates in marginal constituencies. Is it too much to ask that having listed the doubtful voters, we should create a mailing list, whereby they are regularly supplied with literature and general information?

Our opponents have done something along these lines with their Postal Voters, so perhaps in these days, where the main parties are fairly evenly balanced, and where a couple of thousand votes will determine the result of the election in many constituencies, a concentrated drive on the few thousand will bring telling victories.

Anyway, chew it over, have a free and easy discussion about it, sort out your ideas, let your imagination run wild, do not be afraid to experiment, and maybe something good will come out of it.

South Western

E. V. REES

Tracing Removals

WITH the full fruits of the Labour Government's housing programme now being harvested and the Tories' unbalanced building drive adding to the movement of electors, election agents and candidates should be giving serious thought to the problem of tracing the removals.

Two Yorkshire marginal constituency parties, York and West Leeds, have approached their problem in slightly different ways and yet it appears that both will produce satisfactory results.

Charlie Pannell, the burly, active, cockney engineer, has endeared himself to his constituents in West Leeds by his constant endeavours to keep in touch with them. During the past months he has spent a considerable amount of time in visiting the new housing estates with the local Labour representatives and party members.

While Charlie gives a short address over the loudspeaker his colleagues distribute literature, canvass for members and advise the electors of their voting place if an

election should break before the 15th March next. So successful has this approach been that all concerned are convinced that West Leeds will be removed from the marginal lists after the next election.

In York, full use has been made of the services of the NALSO team of canvassers. As a result of a week's work a complete register of removals on two large housing estates has been compiled. It is now possible for Tom McKitterick, the Labour candidate, to immediately circularise each 'removal' if and when an election breaks, and for election addresses to be redirected with special advice concerning the correct polling stations.

These are excellent examples of tackling an important job while there is time, and even greater results could be achieved if there were a combination of the two efforts.

North Eastern

J. T. ANSON

Ward Social

IT was just a ward social; fathers sat in corners comparing ill-fated efforts to beat the Pools promoters and bemoaning the fact that 'Saints' could only draw with Aldershot. Mothers sat knitting, chatting and drinking tea.

It's been going on for years so nobody thought it unusual that at this Labour social there were youngsters by the score—youngsters from two-year-olds to twenty-two. Here was Caron Peterson celebrating his second birthday, and earnest young fellows with L.O.Y. badges helping with the chores. Four cheeky teenagers were crooning about 'a man without a woman'.

It's been going on for years, so nobody thought it unusual that most of the youngsters sat on the floor and that the man at the piano is a Member of Britain's Parliament—after all he had played the piano when the fathers and mothers had sat on the floor in their courting days.

They sang for the sheer joy of living, these youngsters from Shirley Warren and Coxford estates. Fathers and mothers sang too, and they gathered round the Member of Parliament, who left the piano and talked for ten minutes, very gently, very simply, about Socialism.

After the little talk, lots of laughter, more singing, and lots of dancing. All this for 6d.—children half price—and the Ward makes a good profit.

Out in the kitchen I found Jennie Reid, who came from Aberdeen to Southampton

as a bride of nineteen. Jennie laughed when I asked her age, but I'll wager you could not find a more youthful seventy-plus-year-old.

'Why do you work so hard for the Party?' I asked Jennie. 'Because it keeps me young,' she replied.

Just before closing time the hard-worked fathers made their way to the 'Le Box'—what a name for a pub! 'Play for us, Doctor,' said the customers, so a quiet grey-haired man sat down at the piano. The customers paused in their drinking. The darts players 'packed it up'. Together the quiet man and the customers sang 'Danny Boy' and 'Bless This House'.

The Landlord called 'time'! 'Good-night, Doc'—'God bless you, Doc,' said the customers. So the hard-worked fathers and the quiet grey-haired man returned to Shirley Ward social to collect wives and children.

As I said, 'it's been going on for years and I reckon Dr. H. M. King will retain Southampton Test for Labour when the General Election comes.

Southern

F. SHEPHERD

Maldon Campaign

DURING the past two summers members of NALSO did good work in this region. They distributed literature, enrolled new members, addressed meetings on village greens and in several parishes prepared the way for the creation of organisation.

This summer the value of their work promises to be enhanced considerably for their week's work in Maldon augurs well for the success of the month's campaign which they are carrying out in four marginal constituencies.

Of course the starting off is very important and Maldon did this exceedingly well at a special and spicily arranged social evening, where the four students met the Assistant Regional Organiser, the constituency agent and some thirty ke workers.

Tom Driberg's flair for making people feel at home worked quickly and happily so that right at the beginning the students felt that they would enjoy the fellowship and the active support of the comrades in whose districts the job had to be done.

The psychological value of this assurance possessed great value and it was revealed in a splendid week's work during

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